
LESSON 5

REAR AREA OPERATIONS

Most terrible, or rather most effective of all maneuvers, is sudden attack against the enemy's rear...For no hope of safety would remain for them in flight, and they would be unable to turn backwards, since the opposing army would attack, or to go forward, because of the detachment assailing their rear.

--Onsander,
The General, 58 AD

Modern wars will not be won in the Rear Area, but they could well be lost there.

--FM 90-23

Introduction

Purpose	<p>This lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">wExplains the primary mission of rear area operationswDiscusses individual functions of rear area operationswAnalyzes responsibilities of the Marine component and MAGTF commanders in the conduct and coordination of rear area operations in a joint operation
Why Study Rear Area Operations?	<p>Understanding the nature and scope of rear area operations is the first step in ensuring the MAGTF officer can contribute to the essential integration of the rear area into the single battlespace.</p>
Relationship to Other Instruction	<p>This lesson builds on the concept of the single battle but with three "areas of operation." It continues the discussion on the importance of integrating and synchronizing the activities of all three areas across the entire battlespace. The case studies in this course illustrate the precepts of rear area operations.</p>
Study Time	<p>This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require approximately 3.5 hours of study.</p>

Educational Objectives

Responsibilities	Analyze the responsibilities of the Marine component and MAGTF commanders in the conduct and coordination of rear operations in a joint operation. [JPME 1(b) and 2(a)]
Functions	Understand the individual functions of rear operations.
Coordinated Support	Comprehend how rear area operations are coordinated and synchronized in support of other battlespace operations. [JPME 1(e)]
JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)	1/b/0.5 1/e/0.5 2/a/2.0

Discussion

Definition of the MAGTF Rear Area

The MAGTF rear area is that area extending rearward from the rear boundary of the ground combat element (GCE) to the MAGTF rear boundary.

What are Rear Area Operations?

wRear area operations are those operations occurring in the MAGTF rear area to protect and support the force with the objectives of ensuring freedom of maneuver and continuity of operations.

wThey are measures to minimize the effects of an enemy airborne attack, sabotage, infiltration, guerrilla action, and/or initiation of psychological or propaganda warfare. These measures can be taken prior to, during, and/or after a threat action.

Achieving Success

To achieve success throughout the battlespace, these diverse and often geographically separated operations (close, deep, and rear areas) must be

wCoordinated closely

wFocused clearly on supporting the commander's concept of operations

wProtected from existing threats

Operations in the rear area must be planned and executed as aggressively as those in the deep and close areas.

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Discussion, Continued

MAGTF Commander's Responsibility

wThe MAGTF commander is ultimately responsible for his entire battlespace. He may delegate the authority for planning and executing Rear Area Security (RAS) to that subordinate unit commander best located, organized, and equipped to accomplish the RAS mission.

wWhen the MAGTF is operating as part of a joint or multinational force, clearly articulated command relationships and organizations that possess structures and tables of equipment are required to effectively manage the entire spectrum of rear operations.

Joint Operations

The joint community devotes extraordinary attention to rear operations and finds numerous challenges in this portion of the battlespace. As the Marine Corps works to develop new doctrine for controlling rear operations and conforms to current joint requirements, it has encountered significant challenges.

The remainder of this lesson and the readings provide information and discussion on these challenges and requirements of the MAGTF in a joint operation.

Concepts of Rear Area Operations

Joint Direction	<p>Joint direction includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">wJoint force commanders (JFC) organizing forces to cover all functions (support commands, Tactical Combat Force (TCF), etc.)wCreation of rear areaswCreation of joint rear area coordinator (JRAC)wForce deployment phases of reception, staging, onward movement, and integration (RSO&I) tied to rear operations
Definition of JRA	<p>A joint rear area (JRA) is a specific land area with the JFC's operational area designated to protect the JRA or to support the joint force.</p>
Functions	<p>Rear area operations may be divided into eight broad functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">wCommunicationswIntelligencewArea managementwInfrastructure developmentwHost nation support (HNS)wMovementswSecuritywSustainment
Communications	<p>The first element--communications--is the responsibility of the individual unit that must provide an interoperable, secure, reliable, flexible, and survivable communication system, and establish host nation connectivity.</p>

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Concepts of Rear Area Operations, Continued

Intelligence

Elements of intelligence include:

wIntelligence/Counterintelligence (CI) support

wCounterintelligence Teams/Human Intelligence Teams (CIT/HUMINT)

wMilitary Police

wOther Units

wEstablishing reporting means/procedures

wLiaison with U.S. allied, host nation

Area Management

wArea management

wUses terrain and infrastructure effectively

wPositions military assets

wConsiders missions and security

wCompeting risks to be considered in this function include:

wLocation

wClustering

wDispersal

Infrastructure Development

Rear area operations--infrastructure development--is based on the following considerations:

wIs **not** U.S. assistance to host nation governments

wMatures the area of operations

wFocuses on facility security and battle damage repair

wMaximizes host nation support (HNS)

HNS

HNS is "Civil and/or military assistance rendered by a nation to foreign forces during peacetime, crises, or emergencies, or war based on agreements mutually concluded between nations." (Joint Pub 1-02)

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Concepts of Rear Area Operations, Continued

**HNS
Responsibilities**

HNS responsibilities include:

wNational Command Authority/Commander in Chief (NCA/CINC):
Establishes treaties and agreements for HNS

wMEF: Consolidates and prioritizes HNS to support the MEF

wRear Area Operations Center (RAOC): Ensures HNS assets are used to
enhance and support rear area operations

Movements

Movements include:

wReceipt of combat troops and their movement forward

wMovement of materiel, replacement forces, and support personnel

wEvacuation of patients, U.S. nationals, detainees, casualties, enemy
prisoners of war (EPWs), and refugees

**Movements
Considerations**

There are several important considerations involved in movements
considerations:

wProtecting key transshipment and receiving points

wKeeping lines of communication (LOCs) and Marine supply routes (MSRs)
open

wHNS

wMaintaining movements control

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Concepts of Rear Area Operations, Continued

Movements Control	Maintaining movements control includes ensuring the following elements are accounted for: wPlanning wRouting wScheduling wControl wSecurity wHost nation (HN)
Movements Categories	Movements categories include: wSpecial ammunition/munitions wEmergency movement of forces into combat wEmergency support of forces in combat wEmergency medical supplies wEmergency evacuation of friendly casualties wPlanned logistics movement wPlanned administrative movement wOther
Movements Priorities (Forward)	Forward movements priorities include: wCombat/CSS units to combat/support positions wEmergency medical supplies wCSS units to support positions wMovement of Class III (bulk) and Class V (Ground and Aviation Ammunition) wOther combat/CSS unit movement
Movements Priorities (Rearward)	Rearward movements priorities include: wMedical evacuation wCSS units to sources of replenishment wWeapons systems to maintenance facilities wCombat/CSS units to reserve/administrative positions wEPWs/Refugees

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Concepts of Rear Area Operations, Continued

Security Operations

Security operations include:

- wPopulation and resource control
- wEPWs
- wCivilian control
- wNoncombatant evacuation operations (NEO)
- wArea damage control
- wCombat operations

Security Responsibilities

Security responsibilities are in the following areas:

- wDefense of CSSE & ACE facilities
- wSecurity of MSRs and LOCs
- wRemote areas
- wAir defense
- wRear area fires
- wArea damage control

Levels of Threat

The threat is divided into the following three levels:

THREAT LEVEL	EXAMPLES	RESPONSE
I	Agents, saboteurs, sympathizers, terrorists	Unit base and base cluster self-defense measures
II	Small tactical units, unconventional warfare forces, guerrillas	Unit base and base cluster self-defense
III	Large tactical force operations including airborne, heliborne, amphibious, infiltration, and major air operations	May require timely commitment of tactical combat force

Populations and Resource Control

One of the elements of security operations includes populations and resource control. The purpose for populations and resource control is to detect, isolate, and neutralize insurgent and guerrilla activity in concert with HN police/military and civil affairs.

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Concepts of Rear Area Operations, Continued

EPW Procedures

The emphasis of enemy prisoners of war (EPWs) is placed on host nation coordination and medical treatment. Procedures for handling EPWs involve

- wSecurity
- wReceipt
- wProcessing
- wTransfer

Civilian Control Operations

Another element of security operations includes civilian control operations that involves the following considerations:

- wInternees, detainees, refugees
- wResponsibility of host nation (excluding U.S. NEOs)
- wResponsibility for collecting, retaining, and interrogating

Area Damage Control

The element of area damage control is managed as follows:

- wJRAC: Coordinates
- wComponents: Plan
- wHost nation:

- wAuthorize--may have overall responsibility
- wAssist--HN agreements

Combat Operations

Combat operations have the following four major elements:

- wJoint Task Force (JTF) commander

- wNeeds for TCF
- wDetermines C² relationships
- wConditions TCF is employed under
- wEstablishes rules of engagement (ROE)

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Concepts of Rear Area Operations, Continued

Combat Operations, continued

- wRear area coordinator
 - wAdvises commander (AO and mission)
 - wEffects coordination (fire support, intelligence, CI, logistics)
 - wRecommends combat forces
 - wEstablishes communications with TCF
 - wDisseminates and executes priorities

 - wTactical Combat Force (TCF) commander

 - wMay receive OPCON or TACON of security responsive forces
 - wMay receive OPCON of transient forces
 - wAugmented fire support and air defense
 - wReceives necessary liaisons

 - wPlanning considerations

 - wKey asset defense plans
 - wPositioning
 - wUnit movement plans (displacement)
 - wArea damage control
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Sustainment

- Sustainment is concerned with the following:
- wThroughput

 - wAirfield and port operations
 - wRSO&I

 - wTransportation
 - wLogistics build-up
 - wMedical evacuation
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Concepts of Rear Area Operations, Continued

MAGTF Responsibilities

MAGTF responsibilities include:

- wEstablishing MAGTF rear area
 - wEstablishing C² system
 - wEstablishing rear area coordinator (RAC)
 - wDetermining MSC responsibilities and functions
 - wPlanning for tactical combat force (TCF)
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Required Readings

Joint Pub Readings

Joint Pub 3-10, *Joint Doctrine for Rear Area Operations*, pp. I-1 to I-7; II-1 to II-16; III-1 to III-12; IV-1 to IV-8; V-1 to V-3; VI-1 to VI-2, and VII-1 to VII-2. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. III (8800), pp. 861 to 910.

wPages I-1 through I-7 discuss the Joint Rear Area (JRA) including its evolution, operations within it, threat levels, and priorities.

wPages II-1 through II-16 cover C⁴I, including responsibilities (peace- and war-time), defense, and multinational operations.

wPages III-1 through III-12 provide overviews on security including objectives of security operations in the JRA, security-related operations, combating terrorism, NBC defense operations, military deception operations, psychological operations, civil affairs operations, operations security, laws and agreements, and area damage control.

wPages IV-1 through IV-8 cover combat operations including responsibilities, planning considerations, fire support, counterair operations, and military operations other than war.

wPages V-1 through V-3 provide a brief discussion on logistics.

wPages VI-1 through VI-2 discuss area management.

wPages VII-1 to VII-2 cover movements.

FMFM Readings

FMFM 2-6, *MAGTF Rear Area Security*, pp. 1-1 to 1-5 and 4-1 to 4-5. Find this reading in the *FMFM Readings* (8800), pp. 127 to 137.

wPages 1-1 through 1-5 cover rear area security definition and objective, MAGTF commander's role, and fundamentals of rear area security.

wPages 4-1 through 4-5 briefly discuss defense of the MAGTF rear area including concepts, planning, tasks, area damage control, and MAGTF rear area defense.

For Further Study

Supplemental Readings

The following readings are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

wJoint Pub 3-10, *Joint Doctrine for Rear Area Operations*.

wJoint Pub 3-10.1, *Joint Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Base Defense*.

wFMFM 2-6, *Rear Area Security*.

Issues for Consideration

Responsibilities	Who is responsible for security and coordination of operations in the rear area, at the JFC, component, and MAGTF levels? How is that responsibility normally executed?
Functions	What is the primary mission of rear area operations? What are eight functions of rear area operations?
Coordinated Support	How does the rear area coordinator contribute to the MAGTF commander's single battle? If the MAGTF rear area is a critical vulnerability, how is its protection coordinated among the MAGTF's major subordinate elements?